

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claim 58.

As a further preliminary matter, the Examiner objected to claim 16 because of informalities. In response, Applicants adopted the Examiner's suggestion, and amended the last line of claim 16. For this reason, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,600,464). Applicants traverse this rejection because Ohe does not disclose (or suggest) vertical alignment of liquid crystal molecules.

Ohe discloses a liquid crystal display device having electrodes, which form a picture elements matrix and generate an electric field substantially parallel to a substrate (see the Abstract). The Examiner identifies alignment layers 8 on the substrates 1 of Ohe as corresponding to the alignment layers of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants have clarified that the alignment layers of the present invention are vertical alignment layers. As shown in FIGs. 1A-D of Ohe, the alignment layers 8 provide horizontal alignment of the liquid crystal molecules 12 with respect to the substrates 1. In contrast, the present invention has vertical alignment layers for vertical alignment of the liquid crystal molecules with respect to the substrates.

For these reasons, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 16 and its dependent claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,554). In response, Applicants amended claim 29 like claim 16, and respectfully traverse. Applicants traverse because Sato fails to disclose (or suggest) a liquid crystal display apparatus that includes, among other things, a transparent electrode having an entirely solid surface.

Sato discloses a liquid crystal display apparatus that includes a pair of substrates 110 and 140, with a liquid crystal 130 therebetween (see FIG. 9). Sato also discloses alignment layers 120 and 121. However, Sato is silent regarding a transparent electrode having an entirely solid surface formed in the upper substrate, as disclosed in the present invention.

The present invention has a transparent electrode 18 formed in an upper substrate 12 of the liquid crystal display apparatus 10. (See FIG. 33). As shown in FIG. 33, the transparent electrode 18 has an entirely solid surface. Since Sato fails to disclose or suggest this feature, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

New claims 65-67 are added and further define the voltage supplied to the transparent electrode that is formed on the other substrate as being the same as either the first voltage or the second voltage, and depend from claims 16, 17, and 29 respectively. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of claims 65-67 for the reasons recited above, and also because of the features that these claims recite.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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